

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 24 MAY 51

SUBJECT 1. Construction of Minesweepers in Wolgast
2. Seepolizei Notes

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. The Peenewerft in Wolgast at present employs 2400 workers. Minesweepers with a length of about 28 meters and with 3000 horsepower motors are being built there. The ships are armed with three four-barrelled 22 mm. guns and take a complement of thirty men.
2. The Peenewerft is no longer a People's Owned Enterprise but has now the status of a state industry (Staatsbetrieb). Plans for new construction have been impeded by difficulties with materials. The production goal now is about 14 minesweepers (B-Boote) per year. In addition, repairs are undertaken on small Russian naval vessels and German cutters.
3. Recently some wharf workers complained about installing guns on the minesweepers and maintained that the slogans of the "Ohne uns" ("Without us") movement were as valid for the DDR as for West Germany. The workers concerned were not imprisoned but were put to work elsewhere, chipping rust from old boiler. They were told that the guns they had been installing were not going to be used to make war, but to destroy mines in the Baltic Sea.
4. The Seepolizei formerly in Zinnowitz have been transferred to Peenemuende, where they are quartered in barracks near the old maritime crane (Marinekran) in the old part of town. The unit is 220 men strong, large enough to furnish complements for six ships; it is said that ships are to be supplied in the near future. It has been noticed that the unit is overstaffed with officers in proportion to the number of enlisted personnel.

Document No. 4
 No Change in Class. ☐
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 Class. Changed To: TS S (C)
 Auth.: HR 70-2
 Date: 4 AUG 1978 By

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